

Writing a Character Diary: Trees for Life

Teacher Name: **Mrs. Ross**

Student Name: _____

CATEGORY	4	3	2	1
Focus on Topic (Content) -DOUBLE POINTS!	There is one clear, well-focused topic. Main idea stands out and is supported by detailed information about trees! (x2) Shows a full understanding of the topic.	Main idea is clear but the supporting information is general about trees! (x2) Shows a good understanding of the topic.	Main idea is somewhat clear but there is a need for more supporting information about trees! (x2) Shows a good understanding of parts of the topic.	The main idea is not clear. There is a seemingly random collection of information about trees! (x2) Does not seem to understand the topic very well.
Grammar & Spelling (Conventions)	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.
Stays on Topic and in Character	Stays on topic and in character all (100%) of the time.	Stays on topic and in character most (99-90%) of the time.	Stays on topic and in character some (89%-75%) of the time.	It was hard to tell what the topic was.
Creativity	The story contains many creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has really used his imagination.	The story contains a few creative details and/or descriptions that contribute to the reader's enjoyment. The author has used his imagination.	The story contains a few creative details and/or descriptions, but they distract from the story. The author has tried to use his imagination.	There is little evidence of creativity in the story. The author does not seem to have used much imagination.
Setting	Many vivid, descriptive words are used to tell when and where the story took place.	Some vivid, descriptive words are used to tell the audience when and where the story took place.	The reader can figure out when and where the story took place, but the author didn't supply much detail.	The reader has trouble figuring out when and where the story took place.
Characters	The main characters are named and clearly described in text as well as pictures. Most readers could describe the characters accurately.	The main characters are named and described. Most readers would have some idea of what the characters looked like.	The main characters are named. The reader knows very little about the characters.	It is hard to tell who the main characters are.

Problem/Conflict	It is very easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face and why it is a problem.	It is fairly easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face and why it is a problem.	It is fairly easy for the reader to understand the problem the main characters face but it is not clear why it is a problem.	It is not clear what problem the main characters face.
Solution/Resolution	The solution to the character's problem is easy to understand, and is logical. There are no loose ends.	The solution to the character's problem is easy to understand, and is somewhat logical.	The solution to the character's problem is a little hard to understand.	No solution is attempted or it is impossible to understand.
Title	Title is creative, sparks interest and is related to the story and topic.	Title is related to the story and topic.	Title is present, but does not appear to be related to the story and topic.	No title.
Neatness	The final draft of the story is readable, clean, neat and attractive. It is free of erasures and crossed-out words. It looks like the author took great pride in it.	The final draft of the story is readable, neat and attractive. It may have one or two erasures, but they are not distracting. It looks like the author took some pride in it.	The final draft of the story is readable and some of the pages are attractive. It looks like parts of it might have been done in a hurry.	The final draft is not neat or attractive. It looks like the student just wanted to get it done and didn't care what it looked like.
Diary Entry	The final draft is written in the format of a diary entry, include dates, signatures, and is written in the 1st person narrative style (I).	NO Partial Credit in this block.	The final draft is sometimes written in the format of a diary entry, but does not include at least one or more of the following: dates, signatures, and writing in the 1st person narrative style (I).	The final draft is not written in the format of a diary entry, does not include dates, signatures, and is not written in the 1st person narrative style (I).